



The Bell Ringer

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School passes mid-term examination SACS committee completes interim evaluation

by Russell Tober and Arun Anandiah

Two years ago, MBA's classes began before Labor Day for the first time in the school's recent history, much to the chagrin of the faculty and student body. What SACS did this to us?

The answer is simple: SACS (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools). For a school to be accredited by SACS, it must fulfill certain

requirements in teacher qualification, length of school year, curriculum, and other areas. Although not everyone at MBA is always receptive to these requirements, the school must meet them to ensure accreditation. For example, SACS requirements for faculty qualifications forced many teachers back into the classroom as students, even though not every teacher was thrilled about turning in homework again. Dr. Griffith, one of many teachers forced to fulfill new education course requirements, stated that a teacher's strength in his/her subject area is far more important than meeting "facile requirements."

A SACS committee visited the MBA campus from November 3-5 for their five-year interim evaluation to examine the school's progress in implementing the suggestions of the last SACS committee in 1991, and "to produce a helpful report," according to Tim McIntire, the Head of School at Albuquerque Academy and director of the visiting committee.

The committee spent Monday, November 4 visiting classes, individuals,

and locations on campus. Mr. McIntire stated that the group discovered a school "well led with high spirit ... and expectations for quality and excellence." On the following day, the report was completed and presented to the MBA community, "enthusiastically endorsing the school's program."

Science Department, and Board of Trustees members have already visited the science facilities of many of the nation's top schools.

Addressing the issue of diversity mentioned in the second and third recommendations, Mr. Gioia said, "It

edged the helpfulness of having faculty of different colors and backgrounds to add in attracting students of different colors and backgrounds."

Perhaps a greater obstacle to diversity is, as Ms. Hensley stated, the perception of "pockets in the Nashville community that view MBA as a school that does not welcome difference, that does not welcome diversity" - a problem Ms. Hensley admits requires "a well thought-out plan and time" to address.

As for the developmental potential of MBA the fourth recommendation referred to, Mr. Gioia agreed with the SACS committee that it is comparable with the potential of top national schools. "MBA," Mr. Gioia said,

"should consider itself a local, regional, and national school" and pursue its goals accordingly. Mr. Gioia further stated, "I think it is impossible to have students from all over the country, I think it is impossible to maybe be as well known in some ranks ... but I think MBA has the focus and the loyalty that the best boarding schools in the country have." According to Mr. Gioia, the Junior School should be enlarged as a part of developing this potential. Some steps have already been taken to improve its programs, especially publications, and further steps, such as additional computers and a separate meeting (continued on page 2)

SACS Checklist

1. The new science facility is sorely needed and heartily recommended. It should be funded and built.
2. Diversity continues to be an issue on campus among students and faculty. An improved awareness of the needs on campus is an important step as the school makes aggressive efforts to become more diverse.
3. MBA should begin a more aggressive admission effort in the Nashville community in order to become more culturally and socio-economically diverse in its students and faculty. There is a misleading assumption that the greater community is aware of the interest in recruiting minority students and of the availability of financial aid.
4. The development potential of the MBA community is comparable with top national schools, and therefore the goals and ambitions of the development efforts should continue to be raised.
5. As soon as feasible, the Junior School facility should be enlarged.
6. Adequate on-line technology for student and faculty use should be insured.
7. The school should continue to develop fitness and wellness programs for the MBA community.
8. The continued in-depth study of the TSSAA and alternative plans for competitive rivalry competition is essential.
9. There should be continued attention to the problem of climate control in various buildings on campus.
10. As soon as possible, a classroom for each full-time teacher, in which he or she will maintain an office, teach, and help students, should be provided.

people and performance." The committee wrote "... we believe the school's quality is superlative and nearly every effort commendable."

Although MBA received accreditation, the visiting committee compiled a list of ten recommendations for improvement (see list). In response to the first suggestion, Mr. Gioia stated that after the library is finished, his focus will be on the development of a new science facility. Planning for the new science building is in its elementary stages; Mr. Gioia, Dr. Crowell (Chairman of the

is a complicated one, maybe the most complicated of all of them." He added, "MBA's got to recognize that the world's changed a lot since it started 130 years ago ... That doesn't mean that I'm going to believe in quota systems or affirmative action ... but I'll continue to emphasize that it is imperative for all of us to recognize that we need to look far beyond ourselves if we're going to grow and be better people." Mr. Gioia admitted, however, that he "would probably look more closely at a large number of minority candidates simply because we don't have that many." The Headmaster also acknow-

Patrick Wilson Editor
Montgomery Bell Academy
Nashville, Tennessee

**NEWS BRIEFS****THE OPEN TAP**

Congratulations go out to seniors Matthew Berry, John Buchanan, Clay Hamblen, Lee Hampton, Chris Nalbantyan, and Brian Stults for being named to MBA's Totomoi Honor Society.

NEXT STEP, TAIWAN

On the weekend of Nov. 23/24, MBA students representing Nepal and China invaded the Nashville Convention Center for the Tennessee Model U.N. The team representing China, which consisted of Thomas Ross, Jonathan Tam, Matt George, and Brian Sturtevant, was named the Best Respondent in International Court, while the Nepal team, made of Paymon Koochani, and Wilson Vardick, almost won an award for best native garb thanks to Vardick's willingness to wear a skirt.

BEST FOOT FORWARD

Congratulations to Class of '93 alumnus Andy Ross, who attends Mississippi State University, on being selected to punt in the Hula Bowl College All-Star Game.

VARSITY DEBATE

The Varsity debate team has continued its national dominance since the last issue. At the New Trier tournament in Chicago, the teams of Mark Yopp and Nathan Sobel, Josh Hildebrath and Rob Humbrecht, and Samir Idnani and Raja Gaddipati all reached the elimination rounds, with Josh and Rob advancing to the semifinals. Seniors Brian Stults and Michael Rosen finished second in the prestigious Greenhill School Round Robin in Texas. At the Homewood, AL, tourney, Rosen and Robbie "Mighty" Quinn defeated MLK in the finals round. Rosen and Stults reached the semifinal round at the Glenbrook tournament and then placed fourth at the Glenbrook invitational round robin in Chicago.

J.V. and NOVICE DEBATE

The team of Gaddipati and Idnani continued the MBA tradition of dominating the Glenbrook J.V. division, reaching the finals round. MBA's novice teams fared no worse, with the team of Cameron Weid and Chad Davidson reaching the semi's round at the Glenbrook, and winning the novice division at the Homewood tournament. Novice Lincoln-Douglas debater Adam Hill reached the finals at Homewood, and the quarterfinals in J.V. LD, at the Glenbrook concert.

WHO WAS SPORTING THE BOUFFANT HAIRCUT?

Mark Singer, recent author and long-time contributor to The New Yorker, visited assembly and classes last Monday. His recent book, *Citizen K*, is a non-fiction portrait of the man who accused Dan Quayle of inhaling. His next assignment entails flying to Palm Beach with The Donald and Diana Ross as part of a New Yorker profile of Donald Trump.

SACS evaluation (continued)

place, are planned. As for the sixth suggestion, although many administrators are interested in bringing more technology to the entire school, tremendous expense impedes its expansion. There is also a feeling among the administration that the school should not put the acquisition of technology, in Mr. Giola's words, "ahead of the readiness people have to use it."

What MBA student has not complained about room temperatures in Wallace, Carter, or Davis, which are mentioned in the eighth recommendation? Mr. Giola said, "we are doing a study right now on campus concerning the climate issue." Mr. Giola has been pleased with the recent, unusually comfortable temperatures in the

Paschall Theater, but understands "we have just got to keep working on that."

The current MBA campus plan, if implemented, would come close to meeting the tenth suggestion of providing a classroom for every teacher. Mr. Giola stated confidently, "for almost every teacher, I think we'll be in that shape very soon." A renovation of the bottom of the gym is essential for improving the fitness programs at MBA, but will only be undertaken upon the completion of a new science building. In the meantime, the mandatory fitness tests should remind students of the importance of exercise, just as the SACS evaluation should remind MBA of its shortcomings and strengths.

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December 11, 1996

News

The Bell Ringer



Library renovation nears completion

Planned grand opening will be after mid-semester exams

by Stephen Was

By December 22, the structural renovation of the MBA library will finally be complete and, after another month or so, it will be filled with furniture and books and ready for student use. The renovated library promises to have more resources and better technology to meet the students' needs. Mr. Gioia had three objectives for making the library a state-of-the-art facility: that the library become more attractive and inviting to students and faculty, that the building be enlarged, and that the library be updated with the latest technology.

There is definitely reason to be excited about this renovation. Four thousand square feet have been added to the old library and, according to the two librarians, all the furniture in the building will be new. The lower floor of the library will have twelve computer stations with access to the MBA catalog and the Internet. In addition to two glassed student study rooms and a writing room where teachers can take their classes to have writing seminars, the upper floor will consist of a new computer lab to replace the present lab in the Ball Building, a classroom with computers, and a seminar room. The seminar room, say Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Tilly, will hold various club, faculty, and Board of Trustees meetings, as well as replace the old audio-visual room.

The banister of the balcony overlooking the lower floor will be replaced with an all-glass model, in which the names of those who have influenced civilization will be inscribed. The inner walls will be renovated to contain plaques of all the Nobel Prize winners and will be updated each year. A magnificent original clock with the MBA logo on it will also be in the library. The glass in the top of the library will provide more light than before, making it a better environment for studying. Finally, a commemorative plaque containing a poem honoring Mr. Patrick Wilson, the man for whom our library is named, will be on the outside of the library. Thanks to these renovations, and the generosity of the Wilson family, the library should be a hot spot on campus for years to come.

The list of "Great Individuals" is printed beside this article. The list can be changed, and Mr. Gioia would appreciate your feedback.



- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Aeschylus | 81. Harace |
| 2. Alexander the Great | 82. Thomas Jefferson |
| 3. Susan B. Anthony | 83. Joan of Arc |
| 4. St. Thomas Aquinas | 84. James Joyce |
| 5. Aristotle | 85. Helen Keller |
| 6. Arthur Ashe | 86. John Keats |
| 7. Jane Austen | 87. Martin Luther King, Jr. |
| 8. Johann Sebastian Bach | 88. Abraham Lincoln |
| 9. Francis Bacon | 89. John Locke |
| 10. Clara Barton | 90. Martin Luther |
| 11. Ludwig van Beethoven | 91. Niccolò Machiavelli |
| 12. Louis Braille | 92. Karl Marx |
| 13. George Washington Carver | 93. Herman Melville |
| 14. Miguel de Cervantes | 94. Michelangelo |
| 15. Geoffrey Chaucer | 95. John Stuart Mill |
| 16. Winston Churchill | 96. John Milton |
| 17. Cicero | 97. Michel de Montaigne |
| 18. Christopher Columbus | 98. Amadeus Mozart |
| 19. Confucius | 99. Sir Isaac Newton |
| 20. Joseph Conrad | 100. Ovid |
| 21. Constantine the Great | 101. Jesse Owens |
| 22. Nicolaus Copernicus | 102. Louis Pasteur |
| 23. Marie Curie | 103. Petrarch |
| 24. Dante Alighieri | 104. Pablo Picasso |
| 25. Napoleon Bonaparte | 105. Max Planck |
| 26. Charles Darwin | 106. Plato |
| 27. René Descartes | 107. Plautus |
| 28. Alexis de Tocqueville | 108. Rembrandt |
| 29. Fyodor Dostoyevsky | 109. Jackie Robinson |
| 30. W.E.B. DuBois | 110. Auguste Rodin |
| 31. Thomas Edison | 111. Theodore Roosevelt |
| 32. Albert Einstein | 112. J.J. Rousseau |
| 33. Eleanor of Aquitaine | 113. Jonas Salk |
| 34. Elizabeth I | 114. Sappho |
| 35. Euclid | 115. Albert Schweitzer |
| 36. William Faulkner | 116. Sequoyia |
| 37. Michael Faraday | 117. William Shakespeare |
| 38. Henry Ford | 118. Adam Smith |
| 39. Ann Frank | 119. Socrates |
| 40. Benjamin Franklin | 120. Sophocles |
| 41. Sigmund Freud | 121. Harriet Beecher Stowe |
| 42. Galileo Galilei | 122. Mother Teresa |
| 43. Mahatma Gandhi | 123. Henry David Thoreau |
| 44. Giotto | 124. Lao Tze |
| 45. Johann von Goethe | 125. Vincent van Gogh |
| 46. Johann Gutenberg | 126. Vergil |
| 47. Vladav Havel | 127. Jules Verne |
| 48. Georg Hegel | 128. Leonardo da Vinci |
| 49. Henry VIII | 129. George Washington |
| 50. Hippocrates | 130. Frank Lloyd Wright |
| 51. Thomas Hobbes | 131. Orville / Wilbur Wright |
| 52. Homer | 132. William Butler Yeats |





Should exams be taken before Christmas?

Exams before winter break

Students would do better with different schedule

by Mark Yopp

There has been much talk around school about the exam schedule. It seems no one really cares in what order the exams are given, but there is considerable controversy regarding both the time of day and time of year for the administration of the first semester exams.

Through debate, I know high school students from all over the nation, from Washington to Florida, and I don't know of any other students that take exams after the winter break. The main reason is obvious: students will do better if the exams take place before the winter holidays because the material will be fresher in the students' minds. There is plenty of time for teachers to cover and review the material before the break, and such a shift allows even more time for working in the second semester.

Also, it seems more logical to move the exams to December. Before this year, when MBA began school in the week after Labor Day, it made perfect sense to start exams in January since there was not enough time to include all of the material necessary in the first semester before the break. If MBA's starting day keeps moving to an earlier and earlier time each year, there is no reason not to change the

exam dates.

A third and final reason to have exams before the break is that MBA is supposed to be a college preparatory school. The vast majority of colleges and universities schedule their exams before Christmas. MBA fails to fully prepare students for college by placing exams after a long break.

Another proposal I would like to make is the change in exam starting time from 8:00 A.M. to 9:00 A.M. I don't know about the rest of the school, but I think that I would do better with an extra hour of sleep. My freshman year, first semester exams started at 8:00 A.M., and I was much more refreshed and felt I did better than I would have had the exams started at 8:00 A.M. I see no drawbacks to such a change with the exception of the complaint that students would get home an hour later after help sessions. Does that mean that students will study less? The people who are already prepared don't study all night, and the people who "crash" will stay up the whole night anyway. Does such a change really negatively impact anyone?

Thus, I think that the exams should be moved until after Christmas. If the administration has strong objections to that change, then the starting time could at least be an hour later. Students would do better, and MBA would fall more in line with national norms.

Exams after winter break

Current schedule best for students and faculty

by Dr. Alice Springer

Although I had never been at a school with exams after the winter holidays before I came to MBA, I quickly became a convert to the idea of delaying them until January after one year here. There is a certain attraction to the idea of having them all done before the break at the end of the year, but there are even more compelling reasons for delaying them. The first reason is purely selfish; I like to let summer go on as late as possible in August, and having to finish with exams before Christmas would require beginning earlier in August. Changing the mindset of students and faculty to begin productive work earlier in August would not be impossible, but it would be difficult, since hot weather seems to invite mind-drifting toward leisure activities.

For students, there are special advantages to having exams after the holidays. Students with serious academic difficulties have a unique opportunity to do some intensive preparation for the semester exams. Especially when they have a good review guide and specific suggestions from teachers about material to study and master, they can prepare more thoroughly. Although some may say that students who are in such difficulty probably are not going to change in a week or two, we should afford them the time and opportunity to make a concerted effort to prepare for exams.

Even for students who are not having academic difficulties, there are numerous extracurricular distractions, performances, and projects between Thanksgiving and the winter holidays that take time and attention away from the academic program. Most of these activities are so seasonal that they cannot be rescheduled to some other time to accommodate an exam schedule before the holidays. They are also activities that are important opportunities for our students, especially in the performing arts programs.

In terms of scheduling the presentation of material, it is easier to keep students focused on new

material in the period between Thanksgiving and the winter holidays than it would be with something they have already studied. I need to cover as much new material as possible in the first semester so that in the second we can focus on assimilation and proficiency in using what we learned in the first semester. In other subjects, I would assume that there is some of the same concern. In many areas, one hopes that at the end of the year, students have a foundation of knowledge in a subject and, with adequate time, can spend some of it contemplating the meaning of what they have learned. Especially for the Advanced Placement Exams, some subjects require not only thorough assimilation of material but an ability to apply what they have learned to questions of a hypothetical or theoretical nature.

The effect of rescheduling exams would be to minimize their importance. I firmly believe that exams are a valid evaluation instrument to measure what students have assimilated in the course of a semester, and that, as such, the exams should not be trivialized or minimized by throwing them in before the holidays. They merit a special time and place in the year when they do not have to compete for attention and students can give them their due attention.

Along the same lines, exams after the holidays mean that teachers, too, have the time to carefully consider the exams and weigh the performance of the students without the distractions of holiday plans. If students are required to be very focused in their preparation and their performance, teachers should be, also. Exams after the holidays give both students and teachers the latitude to spend the necessary time to deal with exams conscientiously, not hastily in order to get on with other activities.

And finally, I like the exams after the winter holidays because after the exams, in the middle or at the end of January, I have time to reassess where my program is and make some adjustments, if necessary, in terms of the presentation of material. There is a breathing space at the end of January in what is otherwise a long haul from the beginning of the second semester until the spring break.

The Bell Ringer

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HILLENMEYER MAKES GOOD: GOLF TEAM WINS 49-42

Weenie Bowl Cross Country performance was under par

by Robert "Hoss" Ross

Morgan Hillenmeyer came through with a clutch, last-second touchdown pass from Justin Tatum as the golf team continued its Weenie Bowl domination over the cross-country team. The Thursday, November 14th game provided the golf team's seniors with one last taste of Weenie glory, all the sweeter after last year's game was canceled because of Scott Bowen's fear of "controversy." The initial challenge was issued in assembly this year by cross-country seniors Joe Hills, Russell Taber, and junior Keith Bruno and accepted by golf team senior Morgan Hillenmeyer, who promised a win over David Dean and the other minions of Pruitt. On that Thursday, his word was tested.

The game started out at a fur-

ious pace, as Joe Montgomery and James Greek traded touchdowns on the first two possessions. On the next drive, a Tatum interception of a cross-country pass set up a score by Thor "thunder god" Harland. The momentum then shifted to the cross-country team as Joe Montgomery took control of the game, catching three touchdown passes from senior Joe Hills and stopping a golf team drive with a key interception in cross-country territory. From there, the game slowed down as both teams went for the quick kill with a series of "Hail Maries" that all fell incomplete. After coming back to the controlled passing game, both teams rattled off a series of touchdowns as the cross-country team regained the lead 35-28 on a juk-

ing scamper by Alex Harwell. The next golf team drive ended just short of a first down, and the cross-country team took the ball in golf territory. From there, however, the momentum of the game took a dramatic shift as a Tatum interception of a Bruno pass set up Nathaniel Beaver's score, which tied the game 35-35. The harriers answered with an 80-yard scoring gallop by Barish on a pass from Billips, only to have Tatum and the golf team tie the game at 42 on a completion to James Greek. Referees The Beezer and Carden were forced to call for overtime.

The cross-country team got the ball down first, marching to the golf 20 before being stopped when a 4th down pass from Billips fell through the hands of Bruno. The

golf team took the ball, with Tatum completing a quick pass to Greek at midfield, his next pass falling incomplete in the endzone. But on 3rd down and one, Tatum found Morgan Hillenmeyer in a collapsing cross-country secondary all alone in the endzone for the winning touchdown, 49-42. After the game, Weenie Bowl MVP Tatum assessed the performance of his team as "very bad in the first half, but we came out in the second half ready to play, and dominated near the end." Cross-country sophomore draft-day bust David Dean (who finished the day with no receptions, little playing time, and a fleshpale) promised that "next year, we'll crush them." We'll have to wait until next year to find out whether Dean is as true to his word as Morgan was.

X-Files Ripoffs and Scott Baio

The Hoss spends some time on the couch

by Robert Ross

T.V. network executives are a dumb bunch. Armed with doctorates in business administration or economics from Harvard or Yale or even Tufts-McConnell (that's a university, right?), they spend their whole lives trying to force-feed the public educational shows and T.V. movies starring John Ritter and Tim Spelling as middle-aged parents whose only son is taken away by his sadistic grandfather (played by Andy Griffith) to a satanic cult ruled by Tiffani Amber-Thelissen, where the doomsday virus created by Brian Austin Green resides. Now I, the Hoss, will expose their newest scheme to reduce Americans to the level of archaebacteria. Beware, viewing public, of these shows:

Dark Skies: Wow! This show has aliens, government conspiracies, the cold war, and Area 51 - it must be good. Right? Wrong. This show has leftover Alien props, bad Beatles impersonators, and a "non-threatening guy" in the lead. I hate non-threatening guys. The main bad guy has no eye - but no one seems to notice. The girl, however, is pretty good looking.

The Pretender: This is a lousy program, but definitely worth watching, because it has, quite possibly, the best-looking woman with the most form-fitting clothes on networks T.V. The rest of the show is mediocre. Some guy with the ability to assume any persona he chooses escapes from a research facility and decides to do...good? He can be anything he wants to be, and he doesn't use it to become rich, powerful, or to get what a woman desires? Maybe he's "pretending" to be better than he is.

The Profiler: This show I hate. An FBI agent has the ability to visualize a crime (paging Millennium?) so she solves a lot of crimes. The one episode I saw had a remix of The Police's "I'll Be Watching You" done by a fictional Cyndi Lauper clone. It all went downhill from there.

That's all from Hoss in this issue, but remember: if a show has Scott Baio or a "non-threatening guy" in it, it's not worth watching.

Video Game Tournament

Saturday, December 14, 2:00 PM

5 dollars per person
Seniors with their
little brothers are
5 dollars a pair

Super Mario Cart, Techno Bowl, College Football

Used CD Sale → Same day

make three for yourself and four dollars for the Senior Class

bring your used CD's and video game registration money to lunch this week

Planned by Tech Support

Location: Commons Room

Not to be confused with



Who are those pretty faces at pep rallies?



Emily Baker
10th grade
16 yrs. old
Attends Harpeth Hall
3 years as a cheerleader
Football cheerleader
Favorite cheer: Icky, Icky



Miller Greatbouse
11th grade
16 yrs. old
Attends Harpeth Hall
2 years as a cheerleader
Basketball cheerleader
Favorite cheer: none



Haley Harrison
11th grade
16 yrs. old
Attends Harpeth Hall
4 years as a cheerleader
Basketball and Football
cheerleader
Favorite cheer: Icky, Icky



Annie Dunn
10th grade
16 yrs. old
Attends Harpeth Hall
4 years as a cheerleader
Football cheerleader
Favorite cheer: Icky, Icky



Brandy Hollingsworth
12th grade
17 yrs. old
Attends Harpeth Hall
5 years as a cheerleader
Basketball and Football
cheerleader
Favorite cheer: Icky, Icky



Mini Vernez
11th grade
16 yrs. old
Attends Harpeth Hall
1 year as a cheerleader
Basketball and Football
cheerleader
Favorite cheer: Icky, Icky



Vee Broadbent
12th grade
17 yrs. old
Attends Harpeth Hall
6 years as a cheerleader
Basketball and Football
cheerleader
Favorite cheer: Icky, Icky



Maggie Holt
10th grade
15 yrs. old
Attends Harpeth Hall
2 years as a cheerleader
Football and Basketball
cheerleader
Favorite cheer: Hey, We are the best!



Jennifer Warren
12th grade
18 yrs. old
Attends Saint Cecilia
2 years as a cheerleader
Basketball cheerleader
Favorite cheer: none



Erin Caines
11th grade
16 yrs. old
Attends St. Cecilia
4 years as a cheerleader
Basketball and Football
cheerleader
Favorite cheer: We don't mess



Alex Ayers
11th grade
16 yrs. old
Attends Harpeth Hall
2 years as a cheerleader
Basketball cheerleader
Favorite cheer: 1-2-3-4



Elizabeth White
11th grade
16 yrs. old
Attends Harpeth Hall
5 years as a cheerleader
Basketball and Football
cheerleader
Favorite cheer: Icky, Icky



Katie Cowan
11th grade
17 yrs. old
Attends Harpeth Hall
5 years as a cheerleader
Football and Basketball
cheerleader
Favorite cheer: We don't mess



Nadina Mason
12th grade
17 yrs. old
Attends Harpeth Hall
5 years as a cheerleader
Basketball and Football
cheerleader
Favorite cheer: Icky, Icky



Shelley Whitley
12th grade
18 yrs. old
Attends St. Cecilia
3 years as a cheerleader
Basketball and Football
cheerleader
Favorite cheer: Icky, Icky

December 11, 1996

Sports

The Bell Ringer



Cross Country beats Ryan at State meet

Team pulls together for upset of region champ

by Stephen Marler



Russell Taber leads William Lea and the rest of the cross country team to a sixth place finish ahead of Ryan at the state meet.

Lying in hiding for most of the year with no Metro or Region wins in the varsity division, the MBA cross country team had a down year until the State meet. The team placed 3rd behind Ryan and Overtown in terms of its regular season dual meet record and got 3rd in the Metro race.

Despite the poor start, MBA fought its way to a 2nd place finish in region behind Ryan and barely ahead of McGavock. Russell Taber, Peter Chen, Adrian Cameron, David Dean, Hunter Verner, and William Lea, who came in 7th, led the team in the Varsity race. Although four Big Red runners, Adam Johnson, Patrick Wall, Mark Burish, and individual winner John Hart, finished in the Top 10, Ryan defeated MBA in the JV region.

At the state meet, MBA came in sixth, beating all other mid-state teams. The team had an excellent race, with four runners setting personal records. Taber managed to come in 20th, ahead of all of Ryan's runners, while Dean finished 38th and Lea

ended in 46th place. Dean, Lea, and Taber were all named to the All-Metro First Team.

The Cross Country team's prospects for next season look good because while most other area teams will lose many of their best runners, only one of MBA's top seven, Taber, will graduate. The experience and ability of returning starters should give the Big Red an edge in the competition for a region title.



Hunter Verner and Colin Boedigheimer work the crowd at the Lexington Catholic Invitational.

*A commitment to tradition, honor
and values builds communities.*

We at Belle Meade Motorcar wish to express support for MBA students, faculty, and families. The striving for excellence in academics, as well as social and moral values, encourages the growth of responsible, honorable, and inspired citizens.

*"Next in importance
to freedom and justice
is education, without
which neither justice
nor freedom can be
permanently
maintained."*

-James A. Garfield



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John Buchanan

John is the Student Council President, a member of Totomoi and the Mock Trial team, a varsity baseball player, and a soup kitchen volunteer



MBA postseason ends in double overtime

State champs receive biggest scare in two years

by Matthew Berry

After clinching the first 6-5A region crown in school history, MBA rolled into the playoffs. In the first round, the McGavock Raiders invaded Tommy Owen field. MBA quickly scored on its first possession and then recovered an onside kick. The McGavock team countered with two goals of its own, but MBA's first team defense didn't allow another point for the rest of the game. The Big Red offense continued to roll, allowing MBA to win 58-28.

In the second round, MBA played the Millington Trojans. Millington scored first, but during MBA's next possession, the Big Red offensive line took control and shoved the Trojans off the ball while Mad Max Fuller scampered unopposed for 60 yards. By halftime, MBA scored again but led only 13-6 because of a missed extra point. Millington struck first in the second half, giving the Trojans the lead but the Big Red did not allow the Trojans to score for the rest of the half. The Big Red offense then continued to click, scoring 21 unanswered points. Even though the game had been close until the middle of the 3rd quarter, the game ended as a resounding MBA win, 35-14.

In a much anticipated rematch of the previous year's semi-finals, Brentwood Academy came to Tommy Owen Stadium for the third round of the TSSAA playoffs. MBA received the kickoff and proceeded to march 70 yards, but was held to a fieldgoal by the tenacious BA defense. The game remained scoreless for the rest



Michael Eskind catches and converts for another Big Red first down against McGavock.



Will Bartholomew carried the ball over and through Millington's seemingly big defense with the help of our tough offensive line.

of the first quarter as MBA and BA traded turnovers. BA scored the only points of the second quarter, and went into halftime with a 7-3 lead. After stopping MBA on the opening possession of the third quarter, BA proceeded to add a fieldgoal to its 7-3 lead. Both teams' defenses held the offense in check until the fourth quarter when the Big Red offense got back on track. MBA drove to inside the BA ten, but suffered an interception in the end zone. MBA's defense then stepped up, shutting down the Eagle attack for the rest of the fourth quarter, including a close fourth down conversion. After getting the ball back with 53 seconds left, MBA drove deep into BA territory and tied the game on a diving touchdown reception by Paul Russell, sending the MBA crowd into massive celebration. At the end of regulation time, the game was tied at 10-10. BA scored first in overtime, racking up seven points. On third and five of MBA's possession, Max Fuller hit Will Bartholomew to send the game into a second overtime. MBA was held to a field goal, while the Eagles made a touchdown run, ending MBA's promising season by a score of 23-20.



Blake Sloan scrambles against BA.

Basketball shoots for District title, yet falters in early season competition

Big Red goes one and three despite size, strength, and experience

by Omar Booker and Russell Taber

Coming off last year's disappointing season in which the team won only half of its games, the '96-'97 MBA basketball team is looking forward to a great season. The loss of only three seniors from last year's squad and an entire summer of conditioning drills make prospects good for a strong showing this year.

The season started out on a strong note when senior Mike Godwin's 19 points, solid play in the post by junior Whit Smith, and

a clutch free throw shot by junior Omar Booker in the last 30 seconds sealed a victory over Stratford in the first home game of the season. The Big Red's next outing resulted in a loss to Lavergne, 70-69, in which Mike Godwin led all scorers with 34 points. In the next game against Pearl-Cohn, a strong start by Whit Smith soon fizzled into a 65-47 loss. In MBA's second home game, the Burros invaded Brownlee O. Curry Gym on November 26. After a scoreless first

four minutes, each team grappled for the upper hand. Hillsboro eventually built up a small lead by half-time which expanded in the second half. Despite a late rally in which Stephen Marler drove the lane for a three-point play, Hillsboro held on to their lead for the victory.

Many players have contributed to the Big Red's cause. Seniors Clay Hamblen and Will Connelly have played solidly, while junior Gene Goerre is shooting fifty percent from three-point land. Senior

Michael Godwin continues to stand out in terms of ball handling and scoring. Football players Max Fuller, John Ozier, and Blake Sloan look to add another dimension to the Big Red backcourt. Whites Creek and Pearl-Cohn appear to be MBA's biggest challenges for the district title. MBA hopes to compete for the District 11 AAA title with the help of a packed endzone student section providing a little free throw defense.